



IRISH REPUBLICANS AGAINST NATO

Louise Richardson and Micheal Martin at Galway forum.



Free Staters and pro-imperialists left humiliated.

In June, the Free State administration made its most overt effort yet to bring the 26 county state into NATO. Styled as a 'Consultative Forum' the staters staged a roadshow in three Irish cities, bringing a caravan of warmongers and imperialist hawks to hold talks in Cork, Galway and Dublin.

That the event was really controlled by outside, colonial forces could be seen from the fact that the chairperson of what has been rightly dubbed NATOfest was Louise Richardson, a Dame Commander of the British Empire intrinsically tied to the imperialist occupation of Ireland.

The four day event in three cities demonstrated once again that the Free State is a semi colony of imperialism, unable to stand on its own two feet and desperate to join NATO to keep the colonial overlords happy. Had the Free State had it its own way, NATOfest would have whitewashed the fact that NATO play a key role in the ongoing imperialist occupation of Ireland through Britain, a major NATO power who continue a military occupation of Six Irish counties and through the US occupation of Shannon Airport. NATO powers are also regular unwanted visitors to Irish airspace, waterways and ports, further highlighting the



Members of AIA protesting the sham forum outside in Dublin Castle.

colonial and semi-colonial nature of Ireland, despite how much the Free State wants to ignore it.

However, An Phoblacht Abú is happy to report that the Free State did not have it all its own way. Far from it. And we are even happier to report that NATOfest was met by protests right across the country.

Beginning on Cork, it was clear the pro-imperialists had completely misjudged the

public opposition to NATO as the opening of their event was met not only by protest but by disruption and opposition from the floor of the conference room itself. This led Micheal Martin, architect of NATOfest and Free State number two, to state those voicing opposition to NATO were undemocratic. Irish Republicans and members of AIA were in attendance at the protests.

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editorial

NATO is a serious threat to Ireland. As Irish Republicans we understand that NATO play a major role in the imperialist occupation of Ireland through the British military occupation and the US Occupation of Shannon. But the threat is growing. As Anglo-American imperialism attempts to become the unquestionable hegemonic power NATO is clearly its open military arm. The majority of Europe has been subsumed into the military alliance, with the Free State, because of the Irish people's historic and continuing anti-imperialism, one of the few states NATO have been unable to claim. This puts the Irish people firmly in its sights.

The recent NATOfest has again shown the Irish People's opposition to NATO and has shown that the Free State will not be able to march into the war alliance through the front door, much to the anger of the Imperialist overlords. We must now all be on guard for attempts to get the Free State into NATO through the backdoor. One method will be PESCO and increased participation by the Free State in EU battle groups and NATO led operations. Another will be the push for the Free State to rejoin the British Commonwealth.

Make no mistake. British Imperialism wants the 32 counties of Ireland in NATO and the British Commonwealth and the semi-colonial Free State administration stand ready to march to their tune. Only the Irish people stand in opposition to such moves, albeit in passive opposition at this moment. It is the duty of the Revolutionary Irish Republican Movement to turn this passive opposition into active anti-imperialist re-

sistance. The anti-imperialist and national liberation struggle in Ireland are one and the same. It is by mobilising our class and our people into anti-imperialist resistance that the National Liberation struggle will be won. Building a popular All Ireland Resistance campaign against NATO must therefore be a major priority for all Republicans.

As we go to print Ireland has entered the pro-imperialist marching season. That time of year when religious supremacist, Orange fascists and the pro-British death squads, take to the streets particularly in the Occupied Six Counties to demonstrate that they remain a hostile garrison of British imperialism in Ireland.

Irish Republicans reject the nonsense that there are two nationalities in Ireland. 225 years ago, Theobald Wolfe Tone, a Protestant descendent from settler stock made clear there is only the common name of Irishman, in place of the denominations of Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter. Building on Tone and the United Irishmen, Irish Republicans assert that Ireland is one nation, one people and the Republic proclaimed in arms in 1916 declared religious and civil liberties, equal rights and opportunities for all citizens.

Orange fascism is stirred up by imperialism to divide our people and offers nothing. Republicanism offers liberty, equality and fraternity to all. It is for that reason that British imperialism will attempt to use marching season to keep our people divided and we urge all Republican and Nationalist

communities to remain vigilant and call on all genuine Republicans to stand ready to defend our communities if and when the need arises.

Since our last edition the harassment of Revolutionary Republicans has continued across Ireland. This harassment is no doubt linked to a recent report from Europol labelling AIA as "Republican separatists" and "Left wing extremists". The recent Garda operation at the Wolfe Tone commemoration in Bodinstown demonstrates that 225 years after his death, the enemies of the Irish people continue to fear those who follow in the footsteps of Tone and continue to remain true to his principles.

Importantly, this month has seen a rise in workers militancy. From Tara Mines, to Iceland to the retained Fire Service, workers have been taking direct action to defend and assert their rights. This trend is reflective in a growing militancy in the working class as the support for revolution continues to grow. This is fertile ground for Revolutionary Republicanism and Irish Republicans should ensure they are to the fore in workers struggles in the time ahead and linking them in context to the housing war, the anti-imperialist resistance, and the struggle for national liberation. Not to do so would be to miss an important opportunity that revolutionaries will only regret.

If you want to get involved with the paper or submit a piece for consideration, email us at:

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The second day in Galway continued in much the same manner. Veteran Anti War campaigner Margaretta D'Arcy took to the stage before the event had begun and made the opposition of the Irish people to imperialist war and NATO very clear to those in attendance. Outside the venue Republicans, Socialists and antiwar activists held a protest which made clear the people of Galway stand opposed to imperialism. AIA activists took part in these events before dropping a large banner in the city against NATO and Imperialism in Ireland.

The largest anti-imperialist protest took place in Dublin, where Irish Republicans and members of AIA were again prominent and the protest was led by a banner that read Irish Republicans Against NATO. The large crowd gathered first on Dame Street before marching into Dublin Castle to the conference hall to make it very clear that NATO hawks and warmongers were not welcome in Dublin or Ireland.

On the following day a member of AIA who had secured a ticket to the event attempted to gain entry to the conference, to make clear the position that NATO and Brit Imperialism will continue to be resisted in Ireland, but was denied entry and subsequently stopped by the Special Branch under Section 30 of the Free

State's Offences Against the State Act, searched and detained for 30 minutes before being released without charge.

This targeting of Republican activists was a clear indication that having been embarrassed by the failure of NATOfest, the Free State was determined to prevent the Republican position from being articulated and heard. But in this objective the state failed and will continue to fail because as in 1798 the Republican harp once again has been newly strung by the growing generation and it is finding new ears to take up the Fenian gospel.

While the protests against NATO are a welcome development, what is missing is an All Ireland campaign to oppose and resist the presence of NATO in Ireland. Campaigns for neutrality miss the point. Ireland cannot be neutral while our country is under imperialist occupation and all the talk of neutrality and triple locks won't change the fact that there are thousands of foreign troops garrisoning in our country and the Free State military continues to play a growing role in foreign wars.



Members of AIA protesting outside in Dublin Castle.



Banner by AIA in Galway against the NATO "forum".

We don't need neutrality, we need resistance. A popular people's resistance across Ireland against imperialism and NATO and a coordinated campaign that agrees the strategy, tactics and issues to fight that are best placed to lead the Irish people to drive NATO from our country.

'Somewhere and somehow and by somebody a beginning must be made.' - James Fintan Lalor

WAR NEWS

JUNE 2023

Wednesday, May 31 - A man was shot in both legs and the back by four masked men on the Antrim Road, North Belfast. The attack appears to have been a punishment shooting. The British Media have attributed this operation to the Irish National Liberation Army. An organisation on ceasefire since 1997.

Thursday, June 1 - British Occupation Forces seize a gun, ammunition and a silencer in an investigation targeting Republican Militants in Ballymagroarty, Derry. Two men arrested were released without charge.

Friday, June 2 - RUC and Brit Army attend a security alert in Ballymacroarty, Derry and close a number of roads in the area. The British Occupation forces are soon faced by sustained resistance by Republican Youth. An RUC officer is injured on the Aileach Road and Crown force vehicles are damaged. Petrol bombs, paint cans and rocks are used to drive British Occupation Forces from the area. The RUC later say a device was removed from the area for further examination.



Republican youth defending Ballymacroarty, Derry.

Thursday, June 8 - At 10.30am, two masked men shot a man in Belfast City Cemetery, off the Falls Road. The shooting has all the hallmarks of a punishment shooting, regularly used by Republicans as a form of Revolutionary Justice.

Monday, June 26 - A man was shot in the leg in Divis Street, off the Falls Road, West Belfast. Again, it would appear to have been a punishment shooting.

WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION 23'

On Sunday July 3, Revolutionary Irish Republicans gathered at the graveside of the father of Irish Republicanism, for the annual Wolfe Tone Commemoration.

Led by a large National Colour Party of men and women from all four Irish provinces, the assembled crowd marched from the crossroads accompanied by a single drum beat on a bodhrán, the ancient Irish war drum. The commemoration was kept under surveillance by at least 5 carloads of the Special Branch, backed up by uniformed Gardaí, who took photos of all in attendance, along with the reg plates of all cars in attendance.

Broad front

The event was organised by the Wolfe Tone Commemoration Committee, which consists of a number of traditional Revolutionary Republican organisations and Independents. From early in the day, it was clear the state was very concerned by this coalition of Republicans and those who had been attracted to the event from across Ireland.

At the grave of Tone, the event was chaired by a member of Anti Imperialist Action Ireland, who welcomed those in attendance before calling on a member of the Spirit of Irish Freedom Westmeath, to read the 1916 Proclamation.



Socialist Republican colour party with representatives from all provinces at Bodenstown, July 3rd.

Up and coming Republican balladeer, Sean Óg then stepped forward to sing a rousing rendition of the United Irish song Three Flowers, that honours Tone, Robert Emmet, Michael Dwyer and their fight for Irish freedom.

Wreaths were then laid by the Wolfe Tone Commemoration Committee, AIA, Spirit of Irish Freedom, Irish Republicans Against NATO and Independent Republicans Dublin before the chair called a minute's silence and the colour party lowered the flags in honour of those from every generation who have fought and died for Irish Freedom.

The chair then introduced the main speaker of the day, Veteran Republican activist Margaret McKearney (Tyrone), who gave an inspiring oration linking the

struggles of Tone and the United Irishmen to the struggles of Republicans today, particularly the fight against landlords, housing vultures and the presence of NATO in Ireland. The event was then brought to a close by Sean Óg returning to sing Amhrán na bhFiain.

State repression

With the event over, and as comrades began to mingle and chat in the graveyard, the Free State's Anti-Republican operation went into full swing. A chopper now hovered overhead and armed checkpoints were set up on either end of the road leading to the cemetery. As Republican activists made their way home, they were stopped at these checkpoints by members of the Special Branch

and the Armed Response Unit and questioned under section 30 of the Free States Offences Against the State Act.

A number of Republicans stopped at the checkpoints noticed armed men dressed in fatigues in the roadside undergrowth. While some Republicans had phones seized no arrests were made by the Free Staters in what was an operation designed to intimidate and harass those genuine Republicans that would follow Tone in word and deed.

Such harassment however is counterproductive for the Free State and only serves to demonstrate that Revolutionary Republicans are doing something right and that Republican unity and cooperation is feared by our enemies.

ACTIVISM ROUNDUP

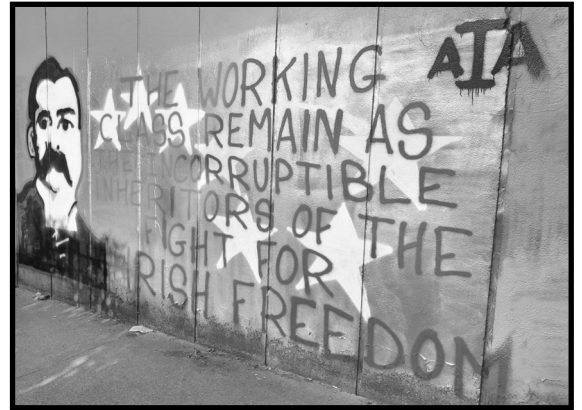


ANTI-ROYAL BRITISH EMBASSY PROTEST

On Saturday June 3 AIA organised a well attended protest at the British Embassy in Ballsbridge to protest the proposed tour of Ireland by Charles Windsor in autumn. Organised by AIA the event was also supported by mem-

bers of the Communist Party of Ireland. The protest included such chants as "When I Say Brit King—You Say Guillotine" and was supported by a number of passerbys.

CONNOLLY MURAL IN DUBLIN



To honour the birth of Ireland's greatest working class leader, James Connolly, Anti Imperialist Action in Dublin's North Inner City painted a mural of Connolly with his famous words, "the Working Class Remain As the Incorruptible Inheritors of the Fight for Irish Freedom."

WICKLOW ANTI-ROYAL ACTION



Over the June bank holiday weekend Socialist Republicans in Wicklow held a banner drop on the Kilmac bridge, the banner read; Fund Public Housing - Not Royal Visits with a Pike piercing the English Crown to remember the 1798 Rebellion 225 years ago.

AIA will continue to campaign against English Royal Visits and continue to call for popular resistance against British rule in Ireland.

ANTI-NATO AGITPROP



AIA Coiste across the is on walls in Cork, a strong country have been spread- message against the NATO ing the anti-NATO messag- imperialists that regularly es in communities through make unwelcome visits to stalls, posters, leaflets and Cork harbour. graffiti. The above graffiti

PATRIOT GRAVES REPAIRED



Members of AIA Dublin North/ Fingal did some general cleaning and repair work of our patriots' graves in Kilbarrack Cemetery in north Dublin. The first was the headstone of Volunteer Josephine McNeill, a founding member of Cumann mBan and Brian Mac Neill, who was killed in action on the 17th of September 1922, along with five comrades, at Benbulbin, in Co. Sligo.

Their headstone was treated chemically four times to help

agitate the dirt and fungus that built up over the years, as well as scrubbed to remove dirt. The headstone of the Flood brothers a general cleaning.

Vol. Seán Flood, 1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade, was the first to enter Four Court in 1916. later becoming Director of Operations in England in 1920. Vol. Frank Flood, one of the Forgotten 10, Frank was executed in Mountjoy Gaol on March 14, 1921.

RHL BANNER DROP FROM ACQUISITION



Revolutionary Housing League activists hung banners and flags from the latest acquisition, McSweeney House in Phibsboro, Dublin. The banners read "Take Back Empty Homes" and "RHL". This comes as Cabhru, former owners, returned to the High Court to seek the



eviction of the activists.

There are 180,000 buildings like this across Ireland that could be taken back not only for housing but also as sorely needed social spaces for communities. The RHL is leading that fight and will continue to lead it.



ORANGEISM

Britain's Tool to Divide and Conquer

Hate Fest is upon us once again. Since the partition of Ireland communities in the militarily occupied 6 Counties of Ulster will be locked in behind British Army erected steel barricades and manned by the armed thugs of repression and occupation.

These communities are held against their will and against civil and human rights to facilitate the ongoing sectarian triumphalism of the Orange Order and their death squad brethren.

Triumphalism, sectarianism, and the threat to both communities are interconnected issues that have damaging consequences for social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, and the development of a Worker's Republic.

The basic definition of triumphalism refers to an attitude or behaviour of excessive celebration, pride, or superiority exhibited by individuals or groups who believe they have achieved a significant victory or dominance over others. It often involves flaunting one's perceived success and denigrating or marginalising those who are perceived as inferior or defeated, for the Orange Order this is based on falsehoods and religion, both used to divide and rule or in their own parlance "subjugate" and "destroy papism."

Triumphalism leads to a sense of entitle-

ment and a disregard for the rights and dignity of others. It creates an "us versus them" mentality, fostering division, animosity, and an erosion of empathy and understanding. When triumphalism is directed towards specific communities, it can deepen existing social divisions and exacerbate tensions, all of which is why as an occupier British Imperialism foster the divisions along sectarian lines, better able to ensure no development of a united workers front to end the capitalist exploitation of the people.

What is sectarianism?

Sectarianism is defined by the divisions and conflicts between different religious, ethnic, or ideological groups within a society. It involves the promotion of narrow-minded and exclusive views that prioritise one's own group while rejecting or denigrating others. Sectarianism leads to discrimination, hostility, and even violence between different communities, thus ensuring no strong and united opposition to the fight for the rights of the working class, further enabling exploitation.

Sectarianism can emerge from a combination of historical grievances, political manipulation, economic disparities, and the reinforcement of stereotypes and prejudices. It

undermines social cohesion, impedes dialogue and cooperation, and hampers efforts towards peaceful coexistence.

Triumphalism and sectarianism pose significant threats to communities on multiple levels.

In extreme cases such as that displayed by the Orange Order and Loyalism in general, triumphalism and sectarianism (causes of conflict) fuel violence and conflict directed at communities they perceive as different, whether in a religious sense or different in any other way (xenophobic).

The failure of populist participatory democracy is having significant consequences for communities whose voices go unheard and unheeded. While populist movements often claim to champion the interests of the people and promise increased citizen participation in decision-making, the reality can be quite different. Stormont as an exercise in populist democracy by counter revolutionaries is a case in point, it is merely a vehicle to ensure that funding goes directly to the political parties and their various quangos to ensure a compliant populace, partition re-enforced and the opportunity for vast profits by the capitalist class maintained.

One of the main challenges with populist

participatory democracy is the tendency for decision-making processes to be oversimplified and polarised. Populist leaders often rely on simplistic narratives and divisive rhetoric to mobilise support, which can lead to an exclusionary approach that marginalises certain groups within society.

This exclusion can particularly affect minority communities, vulnerable populations, and those with less political influence or visibility, thus ensuring that the parties who agree to "sign up" to bodies such as Stormont can strengthen their stranglehold on the future of communities.

As a result, communities that do not align with the populist agenda may find their concerns dismissed or disregarded.

Another challenge is that populist movements tend to oversimplify complex policy issues. They often offer simple solutions to complex problems, which can lead to unrealistic expectations and ineffective policies. When these policies fail to deliver the promised outcomes, it is the marginalised communities that suffer the most. They face reduced access to essential services, limited social protections, and a widening gap between their needs and the government's actions.

Populist participatory democracy is susceptible to manipulation and misinformation. Populist leaders and parties/groups exploit the grievances and fears of marginalised communities, using emotional appeals rather than evidence-based policies. This creates a fertile ground for misinformation and the spread of divisive narratives, further exacerbating social divisions and leaving marginalised communities vulnerable to manipulation.

In summary, the failure of populist participatory democracy can pose a threat to communities whose voices are ignored. It can lead to exclusion, polarisation, lack of institutional checks, oversimplification of issues, and susceptibility to manipulation. To address these challenges, it is crucial to foster inclusive and deliberative democratic processes that prioritise the participation and well-being of all community members, particularly those who are traditionally marginalised or unheard.

In reality the only solution to the 12th of July hatred spewed by loyalism and the Orange Order, the only solution to the exploitation of the working class *"the men and women of no property"* is a 32 County Socialist Republic, A Workers Republic, an end to partition, an end to sectarianism, an end to the political, economic and military of British Imperialism.

NATO NOT WELCOME!

Much of the recent national headlines and Free State media coverage has been about the Free State administrations so-called Consultative Forum on International Security Policy.

With the mainstream media bought and paid for this coverage painted the picture the state wanted, That this forum was not a push towards NATO but merely a balanced consultation on security however the reality on the ground told a very different story. Firstly a look at some of the forum's speakers (of which over 60 are believed to be pro NATO). The chair for example. Louise Richardson an Irish born imperialist bootlicker and so-called Dame commander of the British empire who has condemned the fight for Irish National liberation and supported Britain and the US in their illegal wars of conquest, often under the NATO banner.

Then we have Declan Power, a notoriously pro NATO and PESCO former free state soldier and so-called independent security analyst who pushes for more coordination and involvement with NATO with a clear view towards Ireland joining NATO. Also in the lineup was a number of speakers from Chatham House. A think tank that rather ambiguously claims to receive independent funding whilst in reality has been exposed to receive funding from BAE systems the British arms seller

whose weapons are used all across the world in wars of conquest.

Raytheon Technology is another company and part of the military industrial complex. The British foreign office, the US state department, Shell Oil, The world bank, BP oil, the British army, UK ministry of defence, Lockheed Martin, NATO itself and many, many other war mongering individuals, corporations and governments. This forum was never a balanced forum and has been nothing but a push towards NATO from the beginning.



NATO shill Declan Power.

Attempts were made to shut down any and all opposition clear on every day of the forum. Despite this, however, the Irish people demonstrated we are stand firmly against the push towards NATO and will reject these attempts by the Free State administration to push us further towards NATO and their illegal wars.

Imperialist powers are not welcome in Ireland. Britain and NATO out of Ireland now!

THE MINES OF IRELAND FOR THE PEOPLE!



Miners in Tara Mines, Co.

For a century now the Free State has operated as a middleman between the Irish people and imperialism. It is the most complete form of that centuries-old Irish tradition - gombeenism. One of the most blatant displays of this has taken place outside Navan in Co Meath.

The largest zinc mine in Europe lies beneath the royal county's rolling hills. Some countries might make use of such a discovery to develop the nation's capacities and improve living standards. But a corrupt semi-colonial government, such as in Ireland, would rather give it away for free. Tara Mines might have been a huge boost to indigenous industrial development and an independent economy through nationalisation and using the resource on our own terms. It might even have been left alone as the birthright of future generations. Instead Tara Mines has been the site of naked robbery of the nation's resources.

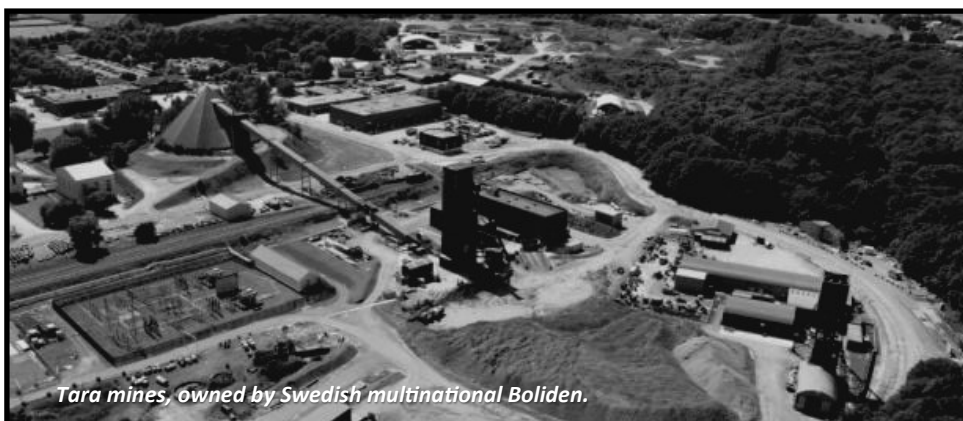
From the late '50s the Free State has granted tax exemptions for the exploitation of Ireland's resources by imperialist mining companies. In the fevered wave of exploration that followed Tara Mines was discovered, with a Canadian company attaining the license in 1970. Tens of millions of tonnes of ore was extracted and over £100 million of profits were accrued, yet the Irish people received nothing. It was not until the Free State sold off its stake in the mine to a Finnish company in 1989 that some benefit to the state finances was attained. No attempt was made to develop run-off industry, such as smelting. Instead the resources are shipped directly to Finland and Sweden for processing.

The one sop held up as justifying such criminal robbery is employment. However this is only good while Irish labour can be profitably used by foreign corporations. Boliden is now

thanking the Irish people for virtually unimpeded access to our natural resources by laying off over 650 workers without warning. They blame the declining price of zinc, inflation, and high energy prices. As usual, a cut in profits or dividends is never the answer - it's always the workers that shoulder the burden.

The Free State operates on a comprador model, accepting (and embracing) dependency and subservience to the imperialist countries and this permeates every facet of politics and economics. When multinationals experience contraction the Irish people pay the price - as in the '80s, after 2008 and with renewed vigour today. This is being seen across multiple sectors, including the much-lauded tech sector, and now also in mining.

Nationalisation is the only way to gain the full benefit of Ireland's wealth and resources, and ensure that workers are compensated and treated with respect. As long as Ireland's economy is dominated by foreign multinationals our wealth and resources will be used to enrich them, and Irish workers will never know security and stability as international capitalism descends deeper into crisis and decay.



Tara mines, owned by Swedish multinational Boliden.

COMRADESHIP GUARD AGAINST BETRAYAL



Political revolutionaries and Guerrilla fighters often develop a strong bond and camaraderie with their fellow revolutionaries. Their shared commitment to the revolutionary cause creates a strong sense of unity and loyalty.

Guerrilla warfare is characterised by unconventional tactics, asymmetrical warfare, political and social non-conventional policies and actions and the ability to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. In this context, trust and unity among comrades are crucial for survival and success.

However, betrayal by a counter-revolutionary leadership can be an incredibly challenging obstacle to overcome. It undermines the very foundation of trust and unity within the political and guerrilla movements. When leaders or key figures within the organisation betray the cause, it can have a devastating impact on the fighters, both psychologically and strategically, the communities from which they derive their support.

The loss of trust can create deep wounds and doubts among the remaining political and social activists along with the guerrilla fighters. They may question the legitimacy of their cause, their comrades' loyalty, and the overall effectiveness of their struggle. The betrayal may lead to internal divisions, confusion, and a loss of morale, which can severely hamper their ability to continue the revolution in its varied phases and actions.

Overcoming the impact of betrayal requires immense resilience and determination. It neces-

sitates a collective effort to rebuild trust and re-establish the core principles and objectives of the revolutionary cause. New leadership may need to emerge, inspiring the remaining both the revolutionary activists and guerrilla fighters to remain steadfast in their commitment and reaffirming the importance of their struggle.

Education

Reinforcing ideological education and political consciousness among the political and social activists and guerrilla fighters becomes essential in such circumstances. By reminding them of the root causes and injustices they seek to address, the revolutionaries can reignite their passion and commitment to the cause. Clear communication and transparent decision-making processes can help rebuild confidence and foster a sense of unity.

Ultimately, overcoming the hardest battle of betrayal by a counter-revolutionary leadership requires a combination of emotional resilience, ideological conviction, organisational restructuring, and collective solidarity. It is through these efforts that all political, social activists and guerrilla fighters can find the strength to persevere and continue their struggle for a just and revolutionary society.

Rebuilding trust after betrayal is a challenging process, but with dedication and effort, it is possible to restore confidence and unity within a group of revolutionaries. Acknowledge and address the betrayal: It is important to openly acknowledge the be-

trayal and its impact on the group. Avoiding or denying the issue will only prolong the healing process. Encourage open discussions where individuals can express their feelings and concerns.

Restructuring

Establish transparent processes and decision-making mechanisms within the group. Ensure that everyone understands how decisions are made and that leaders are held accountable for their actions. Transparency fosters a sense of fairness and reduces the likelihood of further betrayal.

Encourage open and honest communication among all members. Regularly share information about the goals, strategies, and progress of the revolution. Clear communication helps to dispel doubts and rumours, promoting a sense of unity and shared revolutionary purpose.

Revisit the core values and principles that initially brought the activists together. Reinforce the ideological foundation of the cause and remind everyone of the importance of their struggle. Emphasise the common goals that unite revolutionaries and reignite their passion.

If the betrayal involved key leaders, it may be necessary to identify and cultivate new leadership within the group. Seek individuals who demonstrate integrity, commitment, and the ability to inspire trust. Leadership that leads by example and acts in the best interests of the collective can help restore faith and confidence.

Encourage collaborative activi-

ties and projects that require the active participation of all members. Engage training programs, political, social, and always revolutionary in content, share experiences that promote solidarity and a sense of belonging. Solidarity along with activism strengthens the bonds between comrades and rebuilds trust.

A gradual process

Rebuilding trust takes time and patience. It is essential to recognise that healing wounds and regaining trust cannot happen overnight. Be patient with the process and allow individuals and groups to heal at their own pace. Encourage support and understanding among comrades.

Regularly evaluate the progress of the revolution in rebuilding trust. Solicit feedback from members and make necessary adjustments to the revolutions, dynamics, structures, and processes. Learning from past mistakes and striving for continuous improvement will contribute to a stronger and more resilient organisation.

Rebuilding trust after betrayal is a gradual and ongoing process. It requires commitment from all members of the revolution and a shared belief in the cause. With time, effort, and a collective willingness to heal and move forward, trust can be restored, allowing the those engaged continue their revolutionary struggle, for the establishment and development of the society and country for which so much sacrifice has been made.

DEFEND LEITRIM!

Between the 9th and 13th of August a Climate Camp will take place in Poolboy, near Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim. The camp, led by anti-capitalist group Slí Eile, in collaboration with local groups, is convening there to support local campaigns in their resistance to exploitation and land-grabbing by international and domestic capitalists.

For decades now, Leitrim has been carved up and over-planted with monocrop forestry, mostly consisting of sitka spruce, a fast growing tree used for pulping. This method of production is causing a variety of environmental and social issues. On top of that, last year "Green" minister Eamon Ryan granted exploration licenses for gold mining, covering 47 townlands in the county.

Many locals feel that their county has been designated a sacrifice zone: a marginal area, open to exploitation for resources, but hostile to human habitation. No social housing is being built, and if an individual can afford to buy the increasingly expensive land, it is practically impossible to get planning permission for a house.

If you want to plant acres of sitka spruce, however, you will have no issue. Local farmers report that they are denied loans for traditional farming, but that loans are given out frequently for forestry plantation. While some local farmers are involved in planting, most of the land is being bought by investment funds and private forestry companies, who can avail of state grants, tax breaks and low-cost loans, not to mention their own capital reserves.

Leitrim is one of the poorest and most sparsely populated counties in the country. Most young people leave, and due to the over-exploitation of the land, it is becoming increasingly difficult to return.

"Trees were very important in the Gaelic era. There was spirituality associated with them, medicines, they were tied to our language. That heritage is largely gone and replaced with the industry view. There's a long history to what happened here. The British plantations moved so many people. Leitrim in 1826 had 155,000 people living in it. The most recent census had 32,000." - Brian Smyth, Save Leitrim

Forestry

It can be difficult to grasp at first why there is a problem with this type of forestry, until you go among it and see. The word forest might bring to mind a variety of plants and animals, dappled light and a dense undergrowth. The reality of sitka plantations is that they are an absolute disaster for biodiversity and ecosystem health. They consist of one species of tree, so they support little other plant or animal life, while the abundance of pine needles dropping to the floor results in acid run-off which is poisoning the rivers and depleting marine life.

More than 50% of the available land in Leitrim is currently planted with this type of forestry, amounting to around 20% of the total land area. The plantations are literally crowding out the human population. 147 townlands have been abandoned.

Leitrim is like a case study on the legacy of colonialism, and the still unfolding reality of neocolonial governance. The deforestation of

Ireland was begun in earnest by the British, who used Irish oak to build their navy for the invasion of America. The eradication of the forests served a dual purpose: they were the hiding place of the woodkerns, the last of the rebel Gaelic soldiers who refused to be settled.

"You know the phrase the Wild Irish? Do you know the roots of the word wild? It comes from will'd. The British called us that because we were so self-will'd. We refused the benefits of the crown. And the Brits could not understand: what is going on here??" - Ted Cook



Save Leitrim protest against Sitka spruce, 2019.



Eamon Ryan protested in Leitrim.



Treasure Leitrim protest against gold mining, 2022.

In the early 20th century, in an attempt to “kill Republicanism with kindness”, the Crown government granted the Dublin parliament control of certain aspects of the economy. The forestry act allowed a degree of “home rule” forestry, on one condition: it must be the commercial model. Timber extraction. We live with that model until today.

Coillte, the semi-state company in charge of forestry, are a registered private company with 100 shares. I share vested in the Minister for agriculture, 99 in the Minister for finance. That will tell you all you need to know about Coillte’s mandate. It was always intended to be a profit-driven company, which took up the baton of extractive capitalism passed on from our former masters.

Earlier this year, Coillte entered into partnership with British investment fund Gresham House, to create the Irish Strategic Forestry Fund. They intend to “develop” woodland covering over 12,000 hectares throughout the country. The blowback they received in response to this blatant land-grab led to the government stating that they would not pursue such a plan in the future, but that this is irreversible. The minister responsible has stated that Coillte is a private company, and not under government control, so they can’t reverse the deal. Coillte, as it stands, is one of the largest land owners in the South, holding 7% of the total land.

Gold Mining

Eamonn Ryan, in typical Green Party fashion, did a complete 180 on pre-election promises, and granted exploration licenses for 47 townlands in Co. Leitrim, and many



Save Our Sperrins protest against goldmining in Tyrone.

more throughout the rest of the country. The most common method of gold extraction is heap-leaching, using cyanide. This is a particularly destructive form of extraction, with a waste-to-metal ratio of 3,000,000:1. In other words, approximately 3 tonnes of bedrock must be extracted, crushed, and drenched in cyanide, to produce barely enough gold to make a wedding ring. The rest is left over as untreatable waste rock.

It has been proven that gold extraction from electronics recycling is far more effective and environmentally sound than gold mining, and there is plenty of scope to develop an indigenous gold recycling industry. But this would run counter to the states’ ideological commitment to resource-giveaway and economic middle management. The neocolony is unable to think beyond the framework set in place by the coloniser.

“More than 25% of the island of Ireland is given out in prospecting licenses. Only 0.8% of the land in England is given out in prospecting licenses. So we’re being made the dumping ground of Europe.” - Fidelma O’Kane, Save Our Sperrins.

Solidarity In Struggle

Through their years campaigning against fracking, the people of Leitrim have built strong links with activist groups throughout the country, most notably in the Sperrin Mountains, Co. Tyrone, where local campaigners have been resisting gold mining for many years now. Together with groups from all over Ireland they form CAIM – Communities Against the Injustice of Mining. The key word there is injustice. They are not against mining or against industry, but against exploitation. They are not against economic development, but against undemocratic, economic domination of the many by a few.

The Climate Camp will act as a meeting point for these, and many other local campaigns that are all ultimately fighting against the same things: colonialism and capitalist extraction. For more info visit climatecampireland.ie.

Most of the information in this article was taken from the Turning Earth podcast. Listen to the latest series for more info on the campaigns and issues mentioned:

linktr.ee/turningearth

A TALE OF TWO SHIPWRECKS

There was a time when the rich, conscious that they're wealth was greater than they could possibly spend, pursued vanity projects such as the building of public libraries, museums and the occasional folly. On 18th June, this year, the Titan submersible, taking super-rich passengers to the wreck of the Titanic, imploded in the North Atlantic, killing all five men on board. It was a direct result of idle wealth in modern times seeking expensive thrills.

The Titan submersible, operated by OceanGate Expeditions for 'extreme tourists', was made of carbon fibre and titanium offering those able to pay 250,000 dollars per person, the opportunity to get close to the century-old wreck. On board were Stockton Rush, the CEO of OceanGate, Paul-Henri Nargeolet, a French deep sea explorer, Hamish Harding, a British billionaire, Shahzada Dawood, a Pakistani-British billionaire and his son Suleman. Numerous industry experts had raised concerns about the safety of the vessel, but Rush had not sought certification for Titan, claiming that excess safety protocols hindered innovation.

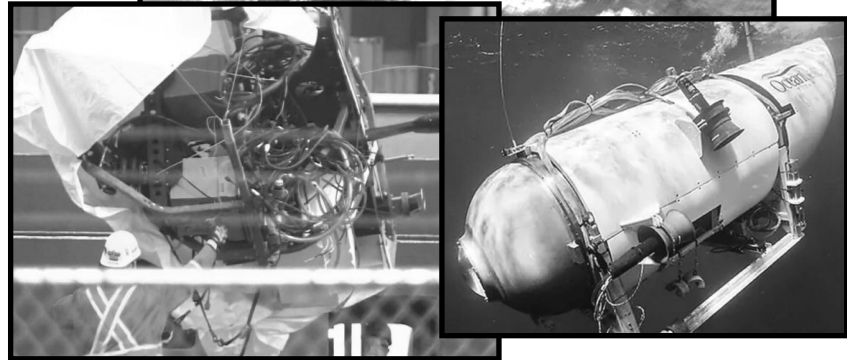
Responding to the disappearance of these thrill-seekers (self-identifying as adventurers), an international team led by the United States and Canadian Coast Guards mounted a rescue operation, supported by aircraft from the Royal Canadian Air Force and United States Air National Guard, a Royal Canadian Navy ship, as well as several commercial and research vessels.

However, demonstrating the class-war of the current era, four days before on the 14th June, an overloaded fishing boat carrying migrants sank off western Greece. Estimates

ranged from 400 to 750 aboard, most of them Pakistanis, with some Syrians, Palestinians and Egyptians. Among those missing was a father, Thaer al-Rahal, from Syria desperately seeking cancer treatment for his son who needs a rare spinal-cord transplant. This disaster was the third major boat wreck recorded since February. Here rescue of migrants at sea is criminalised, German sea captain Pia Klemp being one of several facing jail time (in her case 20 years), for migrant rescue.

From the moment the submersible disappeared, the jokes began, the gallows humour being more open and unashamed than would otherwise be normal. Coming at a time when the contradictions between those at the bottom of society and the tiny minority of the ultra-wealthy at the top is becoming increasingly obvious, the idea that the ordinary worker should feel any kind of sympathy for a billionaire taking a foolish and expensive trip to the Titanic appeared ludicrous.

It was frequently asked during the submersible event, 'Why do people hate billionaires?' The answer however is not difficult to understand when every day such people could vastly reduce or indeed end mass suffering on a global scale with little personal cost. The ultimate parasitism, it is difficult to have an understanding of how much bigger 1 billion is than 1 million. 1 million seconds is about 11 days. 1 billion seconds is about 31.5 years. A billionaire therefore, is someone who consciously hoards more resources than they could possibly use in a 100 lifetimes. Like latter day Mr Toad's, jumping from craze to craze, they invariably choose to piss around in the outer reaches of Earth's orbit, or in the depths of the ocean.



END INTERNMENT OF IRISH REPUBLICANS

Faced with rising Republican resistance, **British Imperialism has once again introduced internment against Republican activists.** This must be a serious concern for all Republicans regardless of organisational affiliation.

Today, the main form of Internment in the Occupied Six Counties is Internment by Remand. This form of internment sees Republican activists arrested by British Occupation Forces on trump up charges with little to no evidence and held in prison, often for several years until the case is brought to trial. While the Republicans often defeat these charges at trial, Brit Imperialism has succeeded in keeping active Republicans off the streets and disrupting their family and community life.

Other forms of internment in Ireland include Internment by non jury court, which also operates in the Free State, and Internment by license revocation, which sees Republican ex-POWs in Occupied Ireland who have been re-

leased from prison returned to gaol to finish out their sentence if they are deemed to be a threat to the Occupation.

As Internment is an issue that could face any Republican, it is an issue that must be confronted by all Republicans. It is an issue that all Republicans have in common and so is one where unity can be built to develop a strong campaign.

There are many in Ireland that will rightly speak out against the use of internment in Palestine, known as administrative detention, including those who call themselves Republicans. But those same groups and individuals are silent when it comes to the internment of Republican Activists. Such a situation is not acceptable and needs to be challenged. To stay silent is to side with the forces of Occupation.

AIA is committed to working with others to oppose the use of Internment in Ireland and in raising our voices in support of all Republicans who are targeted by Brit Imperialists and internment.

FREE LINA

SOLIDARITY WITH IMPRISONED ANTI-FASCISTS

On 11th of June a number of activists dropped a banner near Fairview Park in Dublin in solidarity with the German anti-fascist Lina E. and her three comrades, who were sentenced to several years of prison on the 31st of May. Before the verdict they were held in custody for over two and a half years without any evidence or conviction.

Lina E. was accused of being the founder of an illegal organisation which engaged in militant, violent actions against local fascists. This allegation was held together by less than plausible set of evidence, to say the least, initially consisting of nothing but a few objects: a wig, a hammer and a quantity of cash found in her flat. The state has stopped at nothing to build a false case against Lina, going so far as to offer a former comrade Johannes Domhöver amnesty in a sexual assault case to give evidence against her. Despite these underhand tactics, the case against Lina was still not building, but after 90 days of court hearing the state repression prevailed and she got convicted to over five years imprisonment.

This event shows a trend all over Europe and especially in Germany of the increase of criminalising anti-fascists while fascist murders and actions are often belittled, decontextualized and not persecuted. The capitalist state shows deigns to hide its sympathies, especially so in Germany where the entrenched bureaucracy has such deep rooted

connections going back to the Third Reich and even the German Colonial Empire. In such a context it is little surprise that during the court process, private data collected by the police got leaked to the far-right COM-PACT magazine, or that there was an open cooperation between the police and the locally well-known Nazi Enrico Böhme. This aligns itself with several incidences in the last couple of years, where police or armed forces munitions disappeared only to be used later by fascist groups. Similarly, the killing spree (nine murders) of the fascist trio of the National Socialist Underground in the 2000s got covered up by several state police departments and the domestic secret service. Not to mention the more recent incident of the Hanau attack in 2020, where nine people got murdered by a single person out of racist motivations. The police arrived too late, despite several calls by a person who would later become a victim. They never picked up, delaying their arrival.



AFA Ireland solidarity banner drop, Fairview, Dublin.

These occurrences are far from isolated; in fact they represent a definite trend which

is aided and abetted by the German state.

Against such massive threats of fascist violence, state repression and persecution of militant antifascists a broad united front must be built. In Germany we see such attempts expressed in rallies like the "Tag X" demonstration after the pronouncement of judgement against Lina and her comrades, the rally being well attended by the whole spectrum of the radical left. The Saxon solidarity group "Wir sind alle Linx" founded to support the process against Lina is supported by communists, anarchists and autonomous radicals. After Tuesday the 27th of June similar developments were seen in France after the police-murder of the 17 year old boy Nahel M. in Nanterre, a town on the outskirts of Paris. The demonstration in response to this atrocity was called for by trade unions, anarchists and red groups. The united front is a necessity in the struggle against the rising tide of fascism and must also be pursued in Ireland.

I will close the article with a quote by Esther Bejarano who recently died. She was an anti-fascist, holocaust survivor and Jewish communist who stayed true in her commitments. Her words should remind us that only we can protect us and we have to build the anti-fascist self-defence: *"Who fights against Nazis, cannot rely nor trust the state."*

We demand the freedom for all anti-fascist prisoners worldwide! Free Lina!

AN EXCUSE FOR ABUSE: Demystifying The Fairies

Many readers will have heard of the Irish legend of the Fairies in some fashion or another; Jolly drunken leprechauns in Americanized media, local tales from rural areas about mischievous fairies inhabiting crossroads, perhaps even from the writings of W.B. Yeats. Considering their widespread fame, it is surprising that many people do not understand their historical social function.

Fairies were not little winged creatures who frolicked amongst flowers and converted mushrooms into cottages, in fact, they typically looked like normal humans, except they possessed an evil streak. Humans could not see them for the most part, and they were said to live in a different realm to us but were also present in areas of the human world such as fairy forts, hill tops, and on islands. These types of locations were considered liminal, and therefore otherworldly. They had a few functions, some of them being a scapegoat for whenever anything went wrong, or as a method of explaining the unexplainable. But I'll be focusing on their use as a method to control women.

In order to understand how the myth of the fairies were used to oppress women, one needs to understand changelings. I'm sure many readers are familiar with the concept; a loved one is kidnapped by the fairies and replaced by an evil identical fairy lookalike. It was believed that sometimes the changeling would die, while the kidnapped lived on in the fairy realm. Usually, it was young children, pregnant women, or new mothers who were accused of being changelings. This was because these demographics had a heightened mortality rate, as it was quite dangerous to give birth and children were often weak. This belief helped people to cope with the grief of



Bridget Cleary

losing their wife, child, mother, sister, and so on.

Instead of their loved one being dead, they were alive in the fairy realm, and the corpse they had left was that of a fairy.

Pregnant women were not the only women who had to be wary of the fairies, as you could be accused of being a fairy if you were too attractive, too ugly, too gifted, mentally ill, disobedient, outspoken or even disabled — or so it was believed. Almost any trait a woman could have could lead to these accusations, especially if these traits deviated from what

was considered 'normal'. The myth of fairies served a patriarchal and oppressive purpose that kept women in line, even outside the rigid patriarchy of the church: act in accordance with what society expects of you or be abducted.

A well-known example of this was Bridget Cleary, a social and outgoing woman who lived from 1869 to 1895, who fell ill and was then accused of being a fairy by her husband. He, along with some male relatives, killed her, either burning her to death or burning her immediately after her death. It became international news, and reported on in Ireland, England, and America. Unionists and Conservative

Brits used the story as an example of Irish savagery and barbarism.

Historian Angela Burke points out that, within Irish legend, men who entered fairy forts (or the remains of hillforts, stone circles, and other prehistoric dwellings) at times would emerge with newfound skills in sports, music, medicine, or otherwise (though often with a catch), whereas women would usually emerge muted or mutilated. Midwives, however, would be exempt.

Fairies were believed to have had to abide by certain rules when they were in our world: they had to avoid anything made of iron, could not eat human food, and could not engage in typical intercourse with humans. This led to the belief that women who did not want to have sex with their husbands, or enjoyed 'deviant' sexual activities, were fairies. As a result, these women could be beaten, humiliated, have faeces and urine thrown on them, burned, or tortured — unless, of course, they claimed to be back to their 'normal selves' again, and submitted to the will of their husbands.

Fairies were fabled to be afraid of metal, possibly because metal was a distinctly human-made fabrication which represented progress. There are stories told of fairies being banished by stabbing the accused with pitchforks, burning them with tongs, and various other torture methods involving metal items. Because of this, historians have reasonably deduced that women, upon angering or disobeying their husbands or other male relatives, were hit with pitchforks or other metal tools until they started behaving as he expected.

The legend of the fairies was used as a mystical mask for domestic and sexual violence against women.

Thousands took to the streets of Dublin on the 24th of June to celebrate the city's 40th annual pride parade. The Pride parade, a celebration-protest held by the LGBT community in Dublin since 1983, is a symbol of unity and strength for those in this country put down for their sexual identity. The economic exploitation and patriarchal norms imposed on Ireland by colonialism create a highly hostile environment for the working-class LGBTQ+ community, who have always been some of the most downtrodden victims of imperialism. Since the days of Roger Casement many LGBTQ+ people expressed, and continue to express, this discontent through support for and involvement in the republican national liberation struggle.

However the event held in Dublin, despite good-willed attendance, fell far short of this respectable tradition. Welcomed within the ranks of the Dublin City Council's strictly choreographed event were a brass band of Free State Garda, representatives of British imperialist multinational KPMG, representatives of the Free State political parties, and the Ukrainian embassy who could never miss an opportunity to find fresh blood for their trenches by urging attendees to fight for their "freedom" against Putin.



These elements, who all have played their own grave roles in the oppression, exploitation, and even the brutalisation of LGBTQ+ people in Ireland and beyond, deserve no warm welcome at pride parades, and it is the duty of socialist republicans to better educate the LGBTQ+ community so that they may not receive such a welcome at one in the future.

Any expression of genuine concerns for the situation of LGBTQ+ people in this country were entirely absent from the main body of the event, gutting the day of all the sense of protest, pride, and patriotism which it had its origins in.

What should have been a momentous occasion was sadly reduced to a horrendous and utterly revolting circus of political elites, Free State thugs, and corporate bigwigs who evict

and squeeze Irish queers for foreign profits. Promotion of homosexual and transgender rights took second-place behind promotion of various British multinationals and the NATO war effort to support Ukraine.

Larsya Gerasko was present at the march, most likely conveniently failing to mention her regime's horrendous record on LGBTQ+ rights. The worst feature was the attendance of the ruling Free State political parties, who in the past and present have never failed to crush and squash working class LGBTQ+ people, many of whom have been driven to the street or squeezed into slums after their lifting of the Eviction Ban. The Blueshirt brutes who carried out that dirty work were marching not far behind to the tune of "YMCA."

FRANCE ERUPTS FOLLOWING POLICE MURDER

On the 27th of June this year a French teenager of North African descent, Nahel Merzouk, was shot in the head by French police in Nanterre, Paris. Fearing the inevitable eruption of anger, Macron and his toadies quickly released statements condemning the killing. Unfortunately for the French ruling class, nothing could stop the uprising that developed.

Unlike the recent protests and riots against the French state's imposed pension "reform", this uprising is in large part composed of disenfranchised brown and black youth, descendants of immigrants from France's former colonies. The level of destruction of property is at a level not seen in France since the riots of 2005, which was also triggered by French police causing the

deaths of disenfranchised teenagers. As of July 1st, at least 700 businesses had been destroyed as well as 3000 vehicles. In some cases protesters broke into police stations and seized weapons, as well as deploying fireworks against the cops.

While no doubt there have been excesses in these riots, the typical looting and attacks on innocents, as well as the presence of criminal opportunistic elements, it is objectively an expression of the anger of the masses in France and a direct result of the racist policies of the French state as well as pervasive police brutality. The French response has been to double down on extreme state repression, with 45,000 police deployed to major cities and thousands arrested. Reactionaries who express horror

at businesses and cars being destroyed value private property over the lives and wellbeing of the working class and oppressed who suffer every day under French imperialism.

These sorts of working-class uprisings, while spontaneous and lacking in direction, are class struggle in action. They challenge the sacred rights of property and challenge the right of the capitalist state and its security forces to rule over us. The task of socialists in these circumstances is not to stand on the sidelines wagging fingers but to provide leadership over these struggles and organise the resistance. The French state has been in a constant state of turmoil for months now.

More and more it seems a revolutionary situation is developing as the contradictions sharpen.



PUNK IN THE OCCUPIED 6 COUNTIES

Martin McLoone describes the riots following the cancellation of a gig by the London punk band The Clash in 1977 as the kick start of the punk 'scene' in Belfast. Individual working class punks from different communities united in their battle against the RUC. The attractiveness of punk was its ideological foundation of cultural solidarity and anti-establishment politics.

In the context of the Troubles the youth not only experienced economic regression, but also had to deal with violence, sectarianism and a lack of free spaces. One of the outcomes was a severely underdeveloped cultural scene, to which the DIY culture of punk offered a way out. In addition it created a third space, which enabled young people to socialise across communities and to some extent not to worry about their ethno-national identity, gender and sexual orientation. This was only possible through the anti-sectarian character of punk itself.

Through that character the punk movement enabled popular music to become a platform to challenge oppressive socioeconomic systems and politically fraught environments and gave voice to a reality of young people. For example the beginning of the punk anthem "Alternative Ulster" from 1979 by the Belfast band Stiff Little Fingers describes

the cultural neglect young people had to face:

*There's nothin' for us in Belfast
The Pound's old, and that's a pity
OK, so there's the Trident in Bangor
And then you walk back to the city
We ain't got nothin' but they don't really care
They don't even know you know
They just want money, we can take it or leave it*

The desire to escape those circumstances was a shared experience by young working class Protestants and Catholics. The singer Feargal Sharkey of the Derry band The Undertones reinforces that point: *'People used to ask early on why we didn't write songs about the troubles: we were doing our best to escape from it.'* A contemporary witness describes it like that:

"Nobody cares if you're a prod or a taig ...there was definitely an anti-racist, anti-sectarian element to it. Which is something that really can't be underestimated, particularly in Belfast in those days and the years previous to it. Y'know, alright, it's nothing short of amazing really."

Most scholars emphasize a singularity of this anti-sectarian space created in the subcultural hubs, but fail to place it in a broader context of the struggle for national liberation. The same inter-

viewee, who is from a protestant background, mentions:

"People could get into punk and go along with ... [the] idea that socialist republicanism isn't sectarian, it's somehow apart from the sorta sectarian divide in our society ... The republican thing was still sort of anti-system, y'know, in a very immediate way then [1970s-1980s] ... whereas [laughs] loyalism most definitely wasn't. It was blatantly reactionary."

He reflects on the imposed sectarian policies by British imperialism reinforced through the most reactionary fractions of the settler communities. Since the founding of the Society of United Irishmen Protestants were involved in the anti-imperialist struggle. In that sense the punk subculture is no exception, even though in its emergence it focused on apolitical cross-community shared experiences like adolescence, cultural neglect and boredom.

The subculture got increasingly political outspoken due to the events in the H-Blocks. Ten men dying in a British prison confronted everyone with the imperial policies of Margaret Thatcher challenging the 'apolitical' approach of most punk-bands. The Undertones



guitarist Damian O'Neill mentions that the band were on Top of the Pops doing their single 'It's Going to Happen!' on the night that hunger striker Bobby Sands died. He wore a black armband for the occasion. The song's chorus [...], he reveals, was a vague but nonetheless heart-felt reference to the impasse over the hunger strikes and an appeal to Margaret Thatcher to change her mind. After the break-up of The Undertones the O'Neill brothers formed the more political vocal band That Petrol Emotion. This is exemplary for the development of the scene. It regains its progressive working-class stance in the 80s and 90s.

This is mirrored in the critique of the Good Friday Treaty which can be summed up in two points. The first of which is the neoliberal agenda which most obviously expresses itself in the process of gentrification. In 2018 the Warzone Centre, a sub-cultural hub for the punk scene in Belfast, got evicted. This is picked up by 1000 Drunken Nights in their track "Glass Tombstones":

*As the curtain falls on our "civil unrest"
and American investors begin to infest.
Take a final look at the streets where yer from,
'cause none of it will matter when the NIO's done.
A blank cheque for peace? Now that's just insanity.
Glass and metal tombstones that reach for infinity.
Pacification of the red brick maze. Gentrification
at a covert stage ...*

Especially the emerging Oi! Punk move-

ment represented here by Runnin' Riot, a Belfast band, articulates clear critiques on the emerging Neoliberalism. In the song "Right Thru You" they pick up the increasing precarity in the aftermath of the Treaty experienced by the working class Protestants and Catholics:

*You politicians who do you speak for
Cause you don't speak for the people in the streets where
I'm from
You say you represent the masses
You treat everyone the same
While the workers take a drop in standards
And you say you never had it so good*

The second point of criticism is the institutionalized sectarianism of the Good Friday Treaty. In order to secure the fragile process voices being critical were often cancelled out. The same interviewee mentioned above is expressing his concern about silencing alternative opinions:

"I actually think what we have now makes being anti-sectarian much more difficult. You're allowed to be non-sectarian, as long as you don't upset anybody, and as long as you don't tread on anybody's culture, because 'everybody has the right to their own culture.' Even if their culture has the most awful reactionary fuckin' bullshit involved in it. [...] I feel now that it was easier to be anti-sectarian when people were fucking shooting each other and bombs were goin' off. [...] But I think a certain amount of space has been closed down."

Since the beginning of punk in Ulster, a solution is articulated. Stiff Little Fingers "Alternative Ulster" about how to claim back the country: "What we need/ Is an Alternative Ulster/ Grab it and change it, it's yours/ Get an Alternative Ulster/

Ignore the bores and their laws" This attitude did not change through the years. Runnin' Riots is articulating this desire for community change in their track "Working Together":

*Dreaming of how life could be
If society was free
If we never had no R.U.C.
It's up to you, it's up to me
[...]
Work for all in a capital state
No more anger, no more hate
No more fighting; black and white
We must all learn to unite
Unite*

The anti-sectarian stand is obvious and in both songs the listeners are encouraged to organise themselves in their communities, so even though the punk culture is heavily influenced by anarchist ideas you can observe similar aims with Republicanism in the struggle for liberation from Imperialism and the capitalist yoke and to create alternative 'free' spaces.

I will finish this text with a quote by Franky, who was a volunteer at the Warzone Centre in Belfast, who gives his opinion on the future of punk after the eviction:

"People in the collective almost feel a responsibility at this point in time with what's goin' on in Belfast to try and maintain some sort of indigenous sort of, y'know, whatever you wanna call it, street culture, working-class culture, punk culture, DIY culture, whatever slant you wanna put on it, I think a lot of us feel the responsibility in the city to keep it goin'."

PHILIPPINES

The anti-imperialist guerrillas of the New People's Army are currently waging a revolutionary armed struggle in the islands of the Philippines against their fascist government and imperialism in their country.

20th May - The New People's Army in Central Negros executes military intel asset Eduardo Balansag on rape charges.

25th May - The New People's Army in South-Central Negros executes military intel asset Raul Emancino.

29th May - The New People's Army in Masbate ambushes and executes 2 military intel assets including former NPA fighter Nestor Purisima. One of their associates is gravely wounded at the scene.

30th May - Arc John "Ka Hunter" Varon and Bunso "Ka Mamay" Mangubat of the New People's Army are martyred in a battle with the 68th Infantry Battalion in Occidental Mindoro.

2nd June - The New People's Army in South-Central Negros executes military intel asset Michael Soledad.

3rd June - The New People's Army in Central Luzon kills 2 soldiers of the 91st Infantry Battalion in a sniping operation.

4th June - The National Democratic Front of the Philippines releases a statement celebrating Pride Month and calling on members of the LGBTQ+ community to join the New People's Army.

8th June - The New People's Army in Caramines Norte ambushes the

9th Infantry Battalion, killing 3 soldiers.

9th June - All guerrilla fronts of the New People's Army initiate a rescue and evacuation effort during the ongoing eruption of Mayon Volcano.

9th of June - The New People's Army in Central Luzon carries out another sniping operation against the 91st Infantry Battalion, killing 7 soldiers.

10th June - The New People's Army in Albay carries out two simultaneous harassment operations against separate CAFGU detachments.

10th June - The New People's Army in Negros Occidental executes military intel asset Joemarie Nabise.

10th June - The New People's Army in West Caramines Sur carries out three subsequent harassment and sniping operations against the 81st Infantry Battalion.

13th June - The New People's Army in Central Negros kills 3 soldiers of the 62nd Infantry Battalion in a counter-offensive ambush.

14th June - The New People's Army in South-Central Negros destroys 2 backhoes owned by ESJ Construction in conjunction with local resistance against the "Barangay Development Program".

27th June - The New People's Army in Abra ambushes the 24th Infantry Battalion, killing 1 soldier.

INDIA

In June a number of revolutionary actions took place, primarily in Chhattisgarh. As reported on last month, the mass protest movement against semi-feudal oppression in the state of Manipur continues to intensify. Armed struggle is developing. The death toll is in the hundreds, 10,000s of locals have been displaced, 10,000s of Indian troops have been deployed, and the Internet ban continues to be extended in order to hide this crisis from the rest of the Indian state and the world.

31st May: Comrade Anand (Katakam Sudarshan), a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Maoist) and revolutionary of many decades, died due to health issues intensified by the lack of access to medical facilities inflicted on revolutionary leaders.

5th June: Three security personnel were injured in an IED blast in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

8th June: In the same district, a fire-fight took place between Naxalites and two units of elite counter-insurgency police. No casualties were reported.

10th June: A key highway in Manipur was blocked by tribal protesters following murders in a local village by state forces.

12th June: The village of Govindpur in Manipur's Bishnupur district became the site of a firefight when security forces attacked the village as resistance forces erected defensive barricades.

14th June: Banners and leaflets were distributed to locals in the Chhattisgarh district of Narayanpur

against a new mine in the area. The local authorities complicit with the exploitation and displacement caused by the mining company were warned they would be held accountable.

15th June: In the aftermath of a night of gunfights and house-burning in East Imphal of Manipur, hundreds of people, led by elderly women, blockaded several roads to prevent Indian troops entering the area.

16th June: The home of a junior minister of the BJP government was set on fire in Imphal, the capital of Manipur. A wave of such actions have taken place against the ruling class and their representatives.

17th June: Three members of the counter-insurgency police were injured by IED explosion in the district of Kanker in Chhattisgarh.

19th June: A high-ranking police official was killed in the district of Bastar in Chhattisgarh.

20th June: A police collaborator was killed in the Bijapur district.

21st June: A high-ranking BJP leader, India's fascist ruling party, was executed in Bijapur for his crimes against the people, the fifth such leader killed in Chhattisgarh this year.

21st June: Two policemen were injured by IED blast in the district of Bishnupur in Manipur.

22nd June: A firefight in the capital district of Manipur saw two policemen injured.

25th June: A bandh (general strike) was carried out in Odisha in protest of the torture and murder of three revolutionaries.



RESISTANCE IN LATIN AMERICA INTENSIFIES

One of the key sites of struggle in the international fight for a better world is the struggle for land and existence in the oppressed nations of the global south. In their scramble for resources in their failing system, the imperialist countries are stepping up their infringements upon the rights of the oppressed peoples. Intensified land privatisation, and the ensuing violence and deprivation, is part and parcel of this. Latin America is on the frontlines of this anti-imperialist struggle.

Ongoing for over five hundred years, the mineral rich and fertile land of Latin America remains a playground for monopoly capitalists to enrich themselves. But, as ever, the masses are fighting, and recent months and years has seen a stepping up of this struggle. In the last few years there have been numerous mass uprisings across Latin America, including in Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Chile and Peru. The key axis of struggle in these countries is the land struggle.

Last year indigenous peasants in Ecuador shut down several cities in protest at their conditions. In Chile the Mapuche indigenous people carry on an armed struggle against the oppressive state, and mass protests are ongoing against a new 'anti-occupation' law, which intends to stop the urban hous-

ing occupation movement as well as the land occupation required by the indigenous people to reclaim their land from thieving landlords and institutions. In Argentina a similar law was passed provoking outrage. Weeks of militant protests have taken place in the Argentine region of Jujuy, as multi-nationals try to push through a provincial law to facilitate land privatisation. Argentina has a fifth of the world's lithium reserves and the imperialist vultures see the indigenous communities as mere obstacles in the way of mineral extraction.

In Brazil large-scale militant protests are taking place across the country against the Marco Temporal law, a decree for dispossession passed by Lula's government, which would amount to the largest land privatisation scheme in the history of the state. Indigenous people without continuous and legally titled ownership of land can have their land taken away from under them. The League of Poor Peasants (LCP) are at the forefront of this struggle, leading land occupations and defending the rural masses against the violent latifundia.

Meanwhile Lula, the so-called left-wing President, completed a tour of Europe in late June seeking to increase agricultural exports and, upon his return, passed a massive subsidy scheme for the big land-

lords, known as the Harvest Plan. He has denounced the occupations of the poor peasantry, all while supporting widespread destruction of their livelihood and the Amazon Rainforest in order to enrich the landlords of Brazil. The repression of this resistance is criminal. For instance, two leaders of the peasant movement Luzivaldo de Souza Araújo and his brother Robélío have been held in prison without trial or evidence for four years, their crime being the political crime of resistance. The so-called progressive government of Lula has only intensified the land crisis, and only the revolutionary way of the League of Poor Peasants shows a way forward for the oppressed masses.

Closer to home, Colombian indigenous protesters have been murdered at the behest of Irish company Smurfitt Kappa, who fund landgrabbing in order to make use of the forestry for their products.

It is our duty to provide solidarity to the masses of Latin America in their inspiring resistance to the infringements of imperialism upon their land and their rights.

All those willing to stand up against such oppression should get in touch at isrmedia@protonmail.com.

JOIN THE RESISTANCE JOIN ANTI IMPERIALIST ACTION!



AIA is a fighting Revolutionary Socialist Republican organisation formed in 2017 to rebuild the struggle against imperialism. Organised in all four Provinces, veteran and experienced Republicans are joining with new revolutionary youth to continue the struggle for National Liberation and Socialist Revolution until victory. You can play your part in this important work by becoming a member or active supporter of Anti Imperialist Action Ireland.

We are actively recruiting and are building a network of socialist Republicans across the country, Revolutionaries who owe their allegiance to the Working Class and the People's Republic Proclaimed in 1916 alone. All Republicans should get involved. If you agree with our principles and our work as outlined in this newspaper then you should join Anti Imperialist Action.

Help us rebuild the Revolutionary Movement by joining the Resistance!

Contact lsrmedia@protonmail.com for more information on membership or becoming an active supporter.

“THE FIGHT MUST GO ON!”
- James Connolly